

Jameson Smith 1810-1881

Jameson Smith was born December 10, 1810, in Hexham, Northumberland, England, of John Smith and his wife, Isabella. Jameson Smith was first inducted into military service in the 83rd Regiment of Foot (Royal Irish Rifles) on April 3, 1827, at the age of 16 years. He was subsequently posted to British Army garrisons about the world (Canada, Ireland, India, Gibraltar), attained the rank of NCO (Sergeant), and married Isabella Robson, a daughter of William Robson and his wife, Jane. Isabella accompanied Jameson to the various posts where their children were born.

Jameson was transferred by the army for duty in Canada by the freighter Brunswick in 1834 and was subsequently posted to Halifax, Quebec City, Montreal, Kingston, London, and Fort York, Toronto. He was transferred back to England on June 16, 1843. On its return to England, the regiment was distributed to several depots around the country. It was later reassembled, sent to various trouble spots in Ireland, and eventually dispatched to India.

During this tour of duty, a son Matthew was born on board the ship Brunswick as it approached Halifax, and while stationed at Halifax, a daughter Margaret was born in 1837.

Mathew Smith married Emily Dodd in 1859 and settled in the Markham area. For the 1851 Census of England, Mathew gave his occupation as Apprentice Carpenter, and in the Census of Canada for 1861, he gave his occupation as Cabinet Maker. Mathew and Emily had seven children. He is buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Toronto, Ontario.

Margaret Smith married George McMullen on February 28, 1862, in Stouffville, Whitchurch Township, Ontario. At the time of writing, nothing further is known about Margaret Smith or her family, although family history believes that she died in Fort Worth, Texas.

A second daughter Mary Ann was born during the posting to Fort Henry in Kingston in 1839. During this period, the 83rd regiment was stationed at Kingston in fear of invasion from the United States in support of the recent Rebellion of 1837. Five hundred regulars of the 83rd regiment took part in the Battle of the Windmill near Prescott, Upper Canada, in November of 1838. These regulars, along with 1100 members of the Canadian Militia, defeated an invasion of 250 American Hunter invaders who were attempting to capture Fort Wellington at Prescott.

Mary Ann Smith married Edward Gray in Markham in 1859 and lived until 1918. She was buried with Edward in the Christian Church burial ground, Churchill, York County, Ontario.

Another daughter, Matilda Smith, was born in London, Upper Canada, in 1841. She was born at the Framed Barracks¹ in London, Ontario, in the northeast corner of what is known today as Victoria Park. The military built barracks following the Rebellion of 1837. The 10-acre barracks complex included several dozen structures surrounded by a stockade with projecting bastions and significant structures centred around the parade square. It was bounded by the soldiers' quarters to the North, the officers' quarters to the South, the hospital compound to the West, and the canteen, cells, defaulters room and powder magazines to the East. Unfortunately, there are no visible remains of the post today.

Matilda married Edwin Appleton (the author's great-grandfather) in 1858 in Markham, York County, Canada West. Matilda was residing in London, Ontario, at 718 Queens Avenue, when she died in 1916. She is buried in St Luke's Cemetery, Vienna, Ontario.

Daughter Rebecca Smith married Edwin Appleton's brother Ambrose in 1872 at St James Anglican Church in Ingersoll, Ontario. Ambrose and Rebecca owned and operated the Appleton House hotel on Dundas Street in London, Ontario, before moving to Windsor and Detroit. They are both buried in Windsor, Ontario.

During the period in England, Jamieson's spouse Isabella died after the birth of another daughter Catherine. Isabella is buried on the grounds of Hexham Abbey in Northumberland. The Smith family and all children were Anglicans, and daughter Matilda is said to have been a member of the Hexham Abbey choir during her time there.

Having served 21 years in the British Army, the military returned Jamieson and his family to England from India. He was honourably discharged, aged 39, on June 25, 1850, at the Chatham dockyards. Jamieson and the entire family were enumerated in the 1851 Census of England as living at 27 Hencotes Street. This census identifies another son John aged 25, living with the family.

With a minor pension from the army, Jamieson and his entire family (not sure about John migrating to Canada) emigrated to Canada and the Markham, Ontario district. Isabella's parents and other family members had preceded them, settling in this area about 1830.

¹ City of London Planning and Development Department. (1995, November 15). *Victoria Park, London, Framed Barracks*. Canada's Historic Places, <https://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=10655> “the earliest historical occupation of Victoria Park was by the British military, beginning in 1838. British military occupation consisted of framed infantry barracks and associated support buildings. The site of the barracks, which burned down in approximately 1869, is the largest and best preserved historic archaeological site in the City of London, covering the northern two-thirds of the park. The barracks formed an integral part of the British Military Reserve that was established in London following the Rebellion of 1837. It also served as a refugee camp for escaped slaves from the United States in the 1850s.”

The youngest daughter of Jamieson Smith also married another of the Appleton brothers. Catherine Smith married Lawrence Appleton in 1865 at St Luke's in Vienna, Ontario, Canada. Catherine and Lawrence moved west, living in North Dakota for a time and ending near San Francisco. Both are buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery in San Francisco.

Jamieson is found living with his daughter Catherine in Ingersoll, Ontario in the 1871 census, with his daughter Matilda at Vienna, Ontario in the 1873 assessment rolls, and with a daughter Mary Ann at Musselmans Lake where he passed away on October 22, 1881. Jamieson was buried at Christian Church Cemetery (Plot L7) near Churchill.